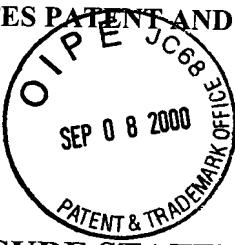


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Nobuya SATO, et al.
 SERIAL NO: 09/555,371
 FILED: May 30, 2000
 FOR: KITCHEN SHEET

GAU: 1771
 EXAMINER:



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicant(s) wish to disclose the following information.

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REFERENCES

The applicant(s) wish to make of record the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed references are attached, where required, as are either statements of relevancy or any readily available English translations of pertinent portions of any non-English language references.

A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

RELATED CASES

Attached is a list of applicant's pending application(s) or issued patent(s) which may be related to the present application. A copy of the patent(s) is attached along with PTO 1449.

A check is attached in the amount required under 37 CFR §1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned, having made reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

PETITION

Applicant(s) hereby request consideration of the attached information. A check is attached in the amount of the Petition fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(i)(1).

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge any additional fees for the papers being filed herewith and for which no check is enclosed herewith, or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
 MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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DOCKET NO: 0327-0840-3 PCT

Sheet 1 of 1

SERIAL NO: 09/555,371

Group Art Unit: 1771

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCY

Reference AO (JP 4 154573) on Form 1449:

This reference is discussed in the specification.

